

NEWSLETTER



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Movement, not museum!

JOHN WRITES ...

John Wimber once said that, without change, 'A movement could become a monument, a monument a museum, and a museum a mausoleum'. He was applying this to the Church / denominations and we are all too aware of the need for our churches to be transformed to connect with a rapidly changing culture. Many people, most markedly those who are young, have distanced themselves from both Christian worship and worldview, facing us with the challenge of cross-cultural mission in our country. This affects Through Faith Missions too, given that we work in partnership with local churches. We need wisdom to know what to retain from past ways of working and in what ways we need to explore new approaches, lest we become a 'mission museum'! So, I am glad to be involved personally in two new things early in 2014.

At the time you receive this newsletter, we will be re-launching the Society of Contemporary Evangelists in partnership with Down & Dromore Diocese and New Wine Ireland. This will be a new way of doing SCE for us, with some independent students (we hope) but the majority having gone through the C of E minister selection process.

The aim for the sponsoring diocese is to train lay evangelists to lead fresh church planting and new initiatives in mission. I think it could be an exciting new stage in our work. The local support and authorisation gives these students a clear aim. The desire to partner with us has come from recognition that there are areas in this diocese that need brand new culturally relevant church plants, led by trained evangelists.

In February I will be leading my first university mission. We have done student outreach as part of other missions but this is the first CU mission week I can recall. The basic shape of the week involves 1-to-1 outreach via coffee bars, lunchtime apologetics events with food and evening events with more food! The 'team' will basically be the resident Christian students and I will try to equip them on apologetics subjects each day. It strikes me as a wonderful opportunity to engage with this generation that is most rare in our churches; both those who do not believe and the Christian students who have found a faith in Jesus and want to share this. Please pray for me that I shall 'make Him known as I should' but also that the Holy Spirit will make it a time of learning for me about how to be effective in reaching young people for Christ.



Prayer Partner Conference
Saturday 14th June
See flier for details



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ROGER WRITES ...

'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!' Remember that I said watch this space (?) – well part of the plans from God was to move to the south coast – so we have! It was all rather unexpected as we were anticipating a move in about five years' time – but God had other ideas. Jill and I are settling in well and new areas of ministry are opening up. Thank you for your prayers as it has been very challenging to move amidst a busy time of missions away!

I had a slightly different role in Walk Cornwall whereby I was speaking at a number of events right across Cornwall. It worked fairly well and we saw a good number of people coming to faith and responding to the gospel, especially in the Falmouth, Wadebridge and Liskeard areas. There have been some good reports coming back of people going on in their steps of faith in the follow-up courses.

mission ... part of an on-going process

I have also led two missions in Northern Ireland during November. The first one 'Which Way?' was in Belfast with Rev Norman Jardine. We had around 60 adults, 25 teens and 20 children responding to Christ with many from outside the area and church, from schools and other connected churches. There were a variety of good events with the church starting to re-connect with families and children in the immediate area. The mission was part of an on-going process.

The second mission 'Connect' was in Seagoe near Portadown with Rev Terence Cadden. We saw nearly 200 responses to Christ in an incredible week of outreach. There were huge attendances at all events and services with many lovely stories emerging. I had the privilege of leading many to Christ personally and praying with many more too. There were often many tears as people found Christ for the first time, including a number of men. Follow up plans include an Alpha course starting in January.



Peter Thompson, pictured bottom left, a local youth worker from Belfast, joined me on both missions to explore his calling as an evangelist. He did very well and was used by God to bring people to Christ and it was great having him on the team. We are hoping to help him discern his calling further during 2014.

On the home and family front, Jill is enjoying life by the sea and we are getting the home sorted out gradually. She has applied for some temporary nursing work with a view to securing a full time job in the future. My son Chris and his wife Abbi are doing well in Toronto and expecting their first child in May so we will be grandparents again. My daughter Carol, Andy and the boys are thriving in Auckland.

I am looking forward to this year with a good number of missions coming up.

Thanks once again for all your prayers and support.



Roger Murphy

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John's Thoughts on WC2

Proper job!

The title is a Cornish affirmation for something good or done well. When I attended the final Task Force meeting in early November there was unanimous appreciation of Walk Cornwall 2; that it had been a 'proper job'. I have been travelling to Cornwall regularly for more than 18 months to meet with this group, lead mission preparation events and do a prayer pilgrimage from Land's End to Callington. What struck me again and again was the fact that we were able to build on the positive impact of the first Walk there. This gave a sense of heightened expectancy, aided by the enthusiastic participation of a couple of ministers who had come to faith themselves in 1993. All of the main towns invited teams, including some that had not participated 20 years ago, as well as many villages. In my itinerant role I heard first-hand of people coming to faith in Christ in many

"... unanimous appreciation of Walk Cornwall 2"

communities and I've received news since the Walk of many going on well in Alpha.

'Any Questions' and 'Hot Potato' events formed the majority of my work during the mission. These events are undoubtedly a challenge at times but I feel that they have real value in a society where Christian faith tends to be pushed to the margins as being no more than 'private opinion'. It's important to engage in debate about public issues such as science, suffering, other faiths, and so on. I was very touched that the churches in Torpoint, where



I spoke at three Hot Potato lunches, gave me an engraved glass at the end of the mission. They chose this gift because they said I had 'helped them to see things more clearly'. The event that sticks in my mind was an open air 'Any Questions' in Bodmin. This had been set up on the basis that anyone who asked me a question would be provided with a free pizza. It was clear that people would be coming and going so the only way to engage with them was to go table to table. As I did so, I found that people opened up with deeply personal questions about suffering they had experienced or struggles regarding faith. It was as much pastoral as evangelistic but the most memorable 90 minutes or so of the whole Walk for me, sharing good news with people who were mostly well outside of the church.

Much of our final Task Force meeting was taken up with discussion of what should happen next. Steve Wild, Task Force chair, has written to churches, saying 'we do not want to leave the mission work to special teams coming down every 20 years!' Quite right too. Please could I encourage you to continue praying for church leaders in Cornwall? In mid-January there will be a meeting to try to draw together those who have been energised by Walk Cornwall 2 for continuing mission throughout the county. This initiative is bringing together several strands of evangelism and mission. The hope is that it could create dynamic groups in the different areas of Cornwall that will be a resource for evangelism in the churches. They do not want the momentum to be lost; nor do we!

John



STORIES from WALK CORNWALL 2 ...



"A lady in her late 70's and always in and around the church opened her door 'I don't know what to believe' she said. 'My grandchildren ask me lots of questions and I am ashamed to say I don't know how to answer them'. You can know for sure, she was told, to that she replied 'Tell me'. She wonderfully received CHRIST and was instructed to read the Gospel of John and then she would be able to answer 60% of her grandchildren's questions."

"During this mission we met so many people in need. In need of a listening ear, in need of prayer, in need of healing and ultimately whether they knew it or not, in need of Christ."



"We listened to many, spoke with many, prayed with many."



"The team in Callington worked hard and we were blessed with seeing God work in the lives of locals as well as non-churched folk. We did lots of door to door and saw people coming to faith there as well as a lollypop lady on the street."



"I preached at a little Family service the first Sunday; the guy who was driving us around admitted, the day before, he was not against us, but not a Christian. My simple kids' talk explained what a believer was (he said later it was the first time he had understood it) and he was the first of the 6 who responded to the appeal. He grew more as the week went on."





"The Holy Spirit was indeed present and moving in certain people's lives! It is humbling of course to speak of our Lord Jesus and His love for them, to people on their own doorsteps, in their homes, in schools, in pubs, in churches and chapels and at so many different types of events indoors and outdoors of all kinds."



"Many seeds were sown and I have no doubt God will use these to produce fruit for His Kingdom in the months and years ahead."

"The husband of a lady who came to faith during WC1, gave his life to God during WC2. To quote her 'You have no idea the good that has come about by your coming. Thank you.'"



"Praying with an old lady (c 85) who had suffered rejection as a child when her mother died and no relatives wanted her. She has carried this for 70 years but as we prayed, the Lord met with her and through tears she was able to receive the love and healing of Jesus."

"One team member recognised a man who was sweeping his garden path, as someone he had met 20 years ago on Cornwall 1. The man recognised him too and he said, 'You were helping to clean cars and you prayed for me through my car window when I was feeling very low. That prayer worked. I became a Christian and I am now in church leadership!'"



Daniel's Thoughts on WC2

Walk Cornwall 2 was a fine Mission.

It was well planned and more or less sufficiently staffed with about 340 Walkers and Walk Associates. I was busy with Mornings/Nights of Colour – which kept me on the go – possibly too much! But they were fruitful occasions and enabled the HQ team to visit a large area, finding out how other teams were doing in each place. Everywhere the teams were well-spoken of as courteous, clear, gentle, hardworking and above all effective in evangelism. In this day and age of Facebook, Twitter (and whatever else they'll come up with!) how refreshing it is when a human being communicates directly to another human being about the wonder of God's redeeming love. There is NO substitute for it, it's what our Saviour did and how Christian history was formed. It was a delight to me to have the teams so well appreciated.

The Farewell Thanksgiving Services in Penzance, St Austell and Liskeard were very happy times. There were encouraging testimonies, astonishing singing and – better by far – the New Testament record that “The Lord added daily to those who were being saved”.



I somehow viewed the Mission with the perspective of age and felt so grateful to the Lord, and so proud of this ministry.

Thousands were reached who would never come to a church. Locals were emboldened, ministers encouraged, team members exhausted and angels rejoicing. What hard work, what surprises, what provision, What a Mission - Praise God! (I wish I could live another 100 years!)

For those who saw 'no fruit', which is often the case, just remember the text, "I watch over my word to perform it." Jeremiah Ch. 1 v.12. Jesus spoke about 'the seed growing secretly' and I am absolutely convinced that neither a moment nor a word is wasted if we endeavour to do His will.

For those saints who have been praying for the mission – THANK YOU. I hope this report encourages you too. Without prayer nothing is done. The hundreds of you 'in secret closets' have wrought changes which eternity will reveal. I'd better end here.

Much love, Daniel



TFM missions for 2014

17 to 21 February	Colchester University	Essex
2 to 9 March	Glengormley Mission	Northern Ireland
5 to 13 April	The Crays churches	Kent
12 to 20 April	Deanery Holy Week	Aberystwyth
3 to 18 May	Two Rivers Mission	Essex and Suffolk
31 May to 8 June	Devonport	Devon
5 to 13 July	Ockley, Okewood, and Forest Green,	Surrey
20 to 28 September	Deanery Mission	Southam
11 to 19 October	Darby Green	Frimley

Team members are required for all these missions except Colchester and Glengormley which are smaller missions and by invitation only. If you are interested in joining a mission please contact the TFM office.

For dates of training courses please see www.throughfaithmissions.org/training

Prayer Partner Conference 2014



My dear Prayer Partners,
Folk ask me how I am getting on. By and large really OK. I am extremely glad not to be making so many journeys; I am glad to be sleeping in my own bed most nights, very glad to be with Gillie – more now than ever before – and on occasions, when I am really brave, I even go to the shops!

What I miss is seeing the numbers coming to Christ that I enjoyed during my ministry. Preaching the gospel is still the priority of my life and I am glad to be asked to preach locally quite regularly, as well as further afield on occasions. One thing that has sprung up naturally is counselling. I see a few local people regularly – almost each week. I visit people in their homes, something my diary now allows and folk seem to appreciate this.

God-willing I shall be celebrating my 70th birthday this year. I want it to be special and involve as many of you as much as I can. Although I'm not 70 until August, Peter made the suggestion that, because a lot of people are away that month, we combine the Annual Prayer Partners' Day on Saturday 14 June with the birthday celebrations. A brilliant idea! See the enclosed flier for details – a genuine "Book early to avoid disappointment!"

So this year we are to have a slightly more relaxed format for our Conference. In the morning, as usual, we will share with you all the exciting engagements that TFM has planned for the future and after lunch the afternoon will

be quite informal. I do want us to sing some of the old hymns, unaccompanied – I love to hear voices lifted in praise – and I also want to speak for a while on the subject of God's goodness to me. This will take the form of a testimony where I can share the exciting ways in which God has led me, His deliverances, His encouragements and His wonderful companionship. Heckling encouraged!

"This is the way, walk in it."

I would hope that there will still be time for us to mingle and chat and have fellowship together and then we will provide cakes at tea-time – no candles tho'!!

I really hope that you can join me on that day – even if you haven't been for years or never at all – as it will be an opportunity for me to express my gratitude, my great gratitude, to God and to you for the wonderful and generous support over so many years, so many missions, so many miles and so many coming to Christ.



Thank you for your long-lasting fellowship. I look forward to the future with a certain joy and my prayer is that I may be of even greater use – the Lord knows how. I am – and have been – most fortunate.

"This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah Ch. 30 v. 21

Daniel



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CONTACT US?

Please tick a box below and complete your address details.

- ☐ I wish to become a Prayer Partner
- ☐ Please note my address change or email address below
- ☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list
- ☐ Please send me the weekly email Prayer News (need email address please)
- ☐ I enclose a gift to support TFM's ministry (Cheques to Through Faith Missions or go to www.throughfaithmissions.org for online giving options).
- ☐ I want to gift aid my donation
- ☐ I would like to remember TFM in my will. Please send details.

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PENTECOST AND THE TWO RIVERS MISSION – MAY 3-18, 2014

You will know that Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the church, and new life, power and blessing was evident which Peter explained was in fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel. It happened fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, and the Greek word *pentecoste* actually means fiftieth.

You may, or may not, know that it originated in the Old Testament in connection with the harvest. In those days, Pentecost was the completion of the barley harvest which began fifty days previously when the sickle was first put to the grain. Each year the priest waved a sheaf of newly harvested grain before the Lord, then the people counted fifty days from the offering of that first sheaf of grain and then offered two freshly baked loaves to the Lord as a thanksgiving.



With Pentecost we therefore have a combination of harvest, resurrection, Holy Spirit and fifties, and hopefully you can see where I am going with this. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have salvation and the essential gift of the Holy Spirit. Because of the gift of the Spirit we have the power from heaven to reap a harvest of souls in the Colne and Stour Valleys in East Anglia during The Two Rivers Mission 3-18 May 2014.

And because of the fifties I am praying for 50 harvesters from Cornwall and the South West, 50 from Mansfield and the North East, 50 from the Wirral and the North West, 50 from the Colne and Stour, and 50 from wherever else. We will train you in how to use the sickle and to bake the bread! Please pray with me and contact the office for information.

Dan, John, Roger, David C and David B will be fully involved and, if I may use a final allusion, The Two Rivers can refer to Living Waters. Amen!

Peter

